

Native Sons, Daughters to honor three Kansans

TOPEKA — Everyone is invited by the Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas to attend their 90th annual banquet on Friday, Jan. 25 to help them honor nationally renowned photojournalist Jim Richardson, Lindsborg, as the “Kansan of the Year” and Dr. Marc Asher, noted physician and inventor, Kansas City, as the “Distinguished Kansan of the Year” and John Carlin, 40th Governor of Kansas, Special Citation.

Winners of the annual Kansas Factual Story Contest and Kansas! Say It Above A Whisper Contest both essay contests, and the Kansas Youth Art Contest will also be honored at the banquet.

Membership isn't required to attend the banquet to be held at the Maner Conference Center, Kansas Expocentre, 17th and Western, Topeka. Social hour will be at 5:30 p.m. with the dinner and program to follow at 6:30 p.m.

Banquet tickets are \$40 per person and may be ordered from: Native Sons and Daughters, Box 546, Topeka, Kan. 66601-0546. Tickets may be picked up on Friday, Jan. 25 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on banquet day at the coat check area in the Capitol Plaza Hotel, immediately adjacent to the Maner Conference Center. After 5 p.m., tickets may be picked up at the banquet door.

The Native Sons and Daughters was formed to preserve Kansas history, uphold our pioneer ancestors, encourage youth to embrace Kansas ideals and honor outstanding citizens.

Whether or not you are a Kansas native, you are invited to join the organization. Lifetime dues are just \$10. To join, add \$10 to your banquet ticket order or you may join outside the ballroom on banquet night.

Kansan of the Year

Jim Richardson is an American photojournalist working for the National Geographic Society and as a social documentary photographer recognized for his explorations of small-town life and rural landscapes. He is one of the society's most productive contemporary photographers.

As a contract photographer for National Geographic Magazine and a contributing editor of National Geographic TRAVELER, he has researched and produced a combined 30 stories since his first assignment was published in 1984.

Richardson teaches photography workshops in the United States and abroad. He also speaks about exploring the world through travel and about small-town leadership qualities as applied in larger settings. Although he has traveled worldwide for the society—from the tops of active volcanoes to below ancient swamps—Richardson has developed special expertise in the people, history and landscape of the Celtic world, including his family's native Cornwall in England, from which both his mother's and father's families emigrated to Kansas.

In his work, Richardson regularly calls upon his Kansas roots. Most recently, he proposed and later photographed an April, 2007 landscape story for National Geographic Magazine about the state's Flint Hills area. His Flint Hills photographs are now traveling through 2009 in a 32-piece exhibit sponsored by the National Geographic Society, the Kansas Division of Travel and Tourism and Epson.

“It is time we all learned to stop looking beyond the borders of our state for inspiration, learn to see what has been here all along and cherish what we have,” Richardson stated following the Flint Hills pictures publication. “The Flint Hills should never play second fiddle to our nation's more recognized landmark landscapes.”

In May, 2004, National Geographic shared with its nine million readers a retrospective of Richardson's 30 years of documentary photography in Cuba, Kansas, population 230. His ongoing work in Cuba has been profiled twice by CBS News Sunday Morning. His work in rural Kansas also has toured worldwide as an audio-visual production called “Reflections from the Wide Spot in the Road”, which won the international Crystal AMI Award.

Richardson is also known for

his first book, High School USA (St. Martin's Press, 1979), a three-year photographic examination of adolescence at Rossville High School. The book is widely considered a photo documentary classic and is used in high school and university classrooms to teach the documentary method.

Richardson was born in Belleville on December 5, 1947, the son of Ralph and Beth Richardson, who owned a small wheat and dairy farm north of town. He began using his father's second-hand box camera as a youngster, photographing the world of the farmstead. He developed negatives in the family kitchen and won awards at the County Fair.

In 1969, he abandoned a psychology major at Kansas State University to begin a photographic internship at the Topeka Capital-Journal, where he continued to work until 1979. While in Topeka, Richardson's work also was published in many major publications, ranging from LIFE and Time to Sports Illustrated and The New York Times.

After a brief stint at the Omaha World-Herald, he worked as a roving Western states photographer for The Denver Post until departing in 1986 to begin a full-time contract photography career that continues today.

He is a Nikon “Legend of the Lens” and is represented by National Geographic Image Collection and the picture agency Corbis.

Richardson and wife, Kathy, returned to their native Kansas in 1997, having lived 18 years in Denver. They now live in Lindsborg, where they operate Small World: A Gallery of Arts and Ideas on the town's Main Street.

Richardson's web site is www.jimrichardsonphotography.com.

Distinguished Kansan

Upon graduation from high school in St. John, farm boy Marc Asher headed to Kansas State University to become a veterinarian but ended up becoming a world famous pediatric orthopedic surgeon, helping millions along the way.

Dr. Asher was born in Stafford County on August 15, 1936 to James Manley Asher and Pratt native Lucile Turner Asher. He grew up on the family farm near St. John and attended its public schools. Following graduation from Kansas State University, he enrolled in the Kansas University School of Medicine, where he was a preceptor with the late Mac Frederick, MD, Hugoton, and graduated in 1962.

Internship at the University of Oregon Health Sciences Center, Portland, was followed by two years' service in the U.S. Public Health Service at the Federal Penitentiary in Leavenworth. After a year of general surgery residency at Baltimore City Hospital, Dr. Asher spent 51 months in Boston, graduating from Harvard Combined Orthopaedic Surgery Residency, including a nine-month basic research fellowship.

In January, 1972, after 15 months on faculty at the University of Texas San Antonio Health Sciences Center, Dr. Asher returned to Kansas University Medical Center as assistant professor of orthopedic surgery. He progressively sub-specialized in pediatric orthopedics and spinal deformities, soon working with the Kansas Crippled Children's

Commission (now Special Health Services) field clinics. He also participated in the circuit courses conducted by the Postgraduate Medical Education Department at KUMC.

As a result of these experiences and his knowledge of Kansas life, Dr. Asher developed a series of clinics based on the principle that it was easier for one person to travel to patients than for a full clinic of patients to travel to one person. Eventually clinics were established in Colby, Garden City, Hays, Hutchinson, Parsons, Salina and in Topeka at the Kansas Neurological Institute and the Capper Foundation. Most of these clinics are still maintained by Dr. Asher's successors.

In the 1970s, Dr. Asher became acquainted with renowned Houston surgeon Paul Randall Harrington, a Kansas city, Kansas native and KUMC graduate who was originator of the world's first successful spinal implant system. The relationship led to the Harrington Professorship at KUMC. The maturing of Dr. Asher's practice led to his participation in the development of the Isola Spine Implant System. From 1991 through 2003, Dr. Asher hosted many visiting surgeons and traveled worldwide teaching and demonstrating his techniques.

Dr. Asher has received many awards for his orthopedic research and has authored or co-authored over 90 peer-reviewed papers, 65 non-peer-reviewed papers and videos, 25 book chapters and one book.

On December 31, 2002, Dr. Asher retired from active practice. He continues as a full-time member of the KU School of Medicine faculty, focusing on projects to foster the Academic development of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery, KUMC and KU Hospital.

Distinguished Service

John Carlin, our state's youngest 20th-century governor, was born in Salina on August 3, 1940 and grew up on the family's dairy farm, which had been home-steaded four generations earlier by his mother's family.

He graduated from Lindsborg Rural High School and Kansas State University with a degree in dairy science. Upon graduation, he returned to manage the family farm.

After four terms in the Kansas House of Representatives, he was elected Governor of Kansas in 1979. Four years later, he became the first person to win a second four-year term.

In 1995, Carlin was appointed the eighth Archivist of the United States and administrator of the National Archives and Records Administration, an agency essential for protecting citizens' rights, holding government officials accountable and documenting the national experience. He held this position until 2005. Carlin took a moribund agency and essentially transformed it into a modern one through reorganization and the adopting of a ten year plan envisioning the use of electronic archives. At the close of his term in 2004, he was awarded the Council Exemplary Service Award by the Society of American Archivists, many of whom criticized his appointment in 1995.

He is now a visiting professor in political science at Kansas State University.

Students challenged by 'Bee'

By JIM SPRINGER

A large crowd watched 30 contestants participate in the 2008 Northern Valley Spelling Bee held Wednesday, Jan. 9 in the Long Island gymnasium.

Grades four through eight each had six spellers involved in the competition. At the end, an eighth grader and a fifth grader battled it out through such words as “gymnastics”, “compulsory”, “architecture”, “improvisation”, and “accelerator”. Ashley Constable, eighth grade, won when Brant Cox, fifth grade, missed “bibliography”. She spelled that word plus the next, “carelessness” to secure first place.

Advancing to the Norton County Spelling Bee to be held in Norton will be: Ashley Constable, Tyler Montgomery and Gunnar Hays, all three eighth graders, and Brant Cox, Brianna Martin, grade 4 and Tommy Hanes, grade 5.

Others participating in the Northern Valley Spelling Bee included: Tyson Callaway, Brittanee Larison, Alex Tharman, Patience



Patience Coffman, a Northern Valley student, participated in a spelling bee held Jan. 9 at the Long Island School. — Photo courtesy of Northern Valley School District

Coffman, Cassie Field, Ashley Jeffries, Ian Vincent, Hunter Chandler, Camden Cox, Clint Cole, Kenzie Husted, Haley Graham, Alex Stevens, Aaron Pinzenscham, Dallas Stillion, Dakota Hilburn, Shayna Vincent, Kirsten Burger, Kobbie Unterseher, Ame Baird, Macy Kasson, Melissa Hawks, Brooke Baird and Eli Lowry.

Helping judge this year's contest were: Tiffany Van Der Veen, teacher and Regan Simpson and Erika Chandler, seventh graders. Jim Springer, teacher, pronounced the words.

The Norton County Spelling Bee will be held at 4 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 13 at East Campus Auditorium in Norton. Northern Valley will send their top spellers as will Lenora and Norton. The winner will advance to the state finals in Great Bend. The state winner will go on to the national competition.

Weather causes accidents

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

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The Norton area received about 3.5 inches of new snow in Wednesday's snowstorm.*

Norton County Sheriff's department reported three separate accidents Wednesday that were attributed to icy road conditions.

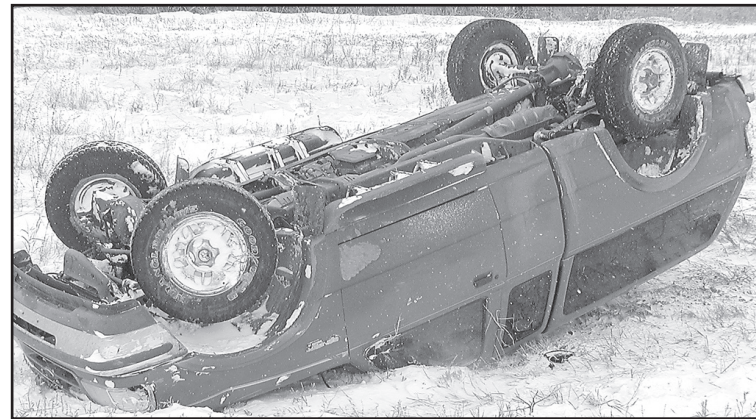
Robin Johnson, 56, from Alma lost control of his 2001 Ford Ranger pickup east of Norton on U.S. Highway 36 at mile marker 118. The vehicle spun into the south ditch and struck an embankment. Mr. Johnson was alone in the pickup and was wearing his seatbelt. He was taken by ambulance to Norton County Hospital.

Ice was again to blame when Briannan Cook, 17, Norcatur, lost control of her 1995 Ford Ranger with a camper cover. She was coming up a hill on U.S. Highway 36, about five miles west of Norton at mile post 111.5 when she lost control of the vehicle and overcorrected. The vehicle went into the south ditch and overturned. Miss Cook was not wearing a seatbelt and was transported to Norton County Hospital by Norton County ambulance.

Richard Reeser, 67, Missouri Valley, Iowa and a passenger, Jeannette Reeser, were neither one injured when their 2007 Dodge van struck a guardrail on Kansas Highway 383 close to Alma. Mr. Reeser was going around a curve when he lost control on the ice, hit a guardrail and went into the ditch. Both occupants were wearing their seatbelts.

* See Tom Dreiling's “Good Evening, Norton” column on page 4 of today's Norton Telegram.

News You Need!



This pickup driven by Briannan Cook, 17, Norcatur, flipped over when it slid off U.S. Highway 36 Wednesday morning about five miles west of Norton. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

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